9/9/71

Mr. J. Rothstein, Adm. Asst.
Senator Mike Gravel
U.S.Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rothstein,

Today's new stories indicating the Department of Justice holds the Senator has and enjoys no Senatorial prerogatives reminds me of an old and successful invocation of Senatorial immunity in the past. Perhaps in a lighter moment the Senator may find some amusement in it.

It seems that when he served with such distinction in that august body, Warren G. Harding was apprehended in a New York City raid on a whorehouse. He claimed Senatorial immunity and it was recognized.

I am trying to remember the dimming past. I think this story is from a book titled Washington Swindle Sheet by William Hard, then a Washington correspondent. The book must date to the mid-thirties. It was an account of Congressional abuse of public funds. If my recollection is inaccurate, I think the Library of Congress could supply you with the account, should it be of interest.

On a more serious note, I have had extensive experience dealing with the present administration of the Department of Justice in usually-unsuccessful efforts to get public information. The record is an incredible one only partly indicated in the last chapter of my current book FRAME-UP. I have all the correspondence. Nobody ever once wrote me or my lawyer a truthful letter. I wound up charging perjury to the Department and to this day that record in court remains undenied. This is not the only such undenied perjury in an effort to deny public information. What has been denied me in several cases includes the public evidence of public proceedings, in one case in court and the other published by the federal government. The time may come when these records may be of value to you.

Best luck to your embattled!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg